LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the engaging portion,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 1,~~ wherein the valve device includes a valve body and a coil spring.

4. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the engaging portion,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 1,~~ wherein said ~~container body~~ink chamber is provided with a projected portion for a stopper capable of pivoting said retaining member such that said projected portion is detachable from the ~~ink cartridge~~ mounting portion.

5. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the engaging portion,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 1,~~ wherein said biasing member is provided with a length and an elastic force such that said biasing member moves a claw portion of said retaining member to outside of said ~~recessed~~engaging portion when an engagement between said retaining member and the ~~carriage~~mounting portion is released.

6. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the engaging portion,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 1,~~ wherein a stress provided by said biasing member is set to a range of 200g through 700g when said cartridge is mounted.

7. (Currently amended) The ink cartridge according to Claim ~~1~~3, wherein said valve device includes a sealing member for resiliently abutting a surrounding of the ink supply needle, and

a valve body brought into contact with said sealing member and said biasing member for pressing said valve body to said sealing member.

8. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the engaging portion,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 1,~~ wherein said biasing member is provided with an elastic force such that said ~~container body~~ink chamber is moved in a direction opposed to an insertion direction against a friction force between ~~said~~a sealing member and the ink supply needle when said biasing member releases an engagement between said retaining member and the mounting portion.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The ink cartridge according to Claim ~~9~~11, wherein said valve device includes a valve body and a coil spring.

11. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a pressed portion, opposing the retaining member through the ink chamber, and having a face adapted to be pressed by a member of the recording apparatus;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the member of the recording apparatus,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 9,~~ wherein said ~~container body~~ink chamber is provided with a projected portion for a stopper capable of pivoting said retaining member such that said projected portion is detachable from said mounting portion.

12. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a pressed portion, opposing the retaining member through the ink chamber, and having a face adapted to be pressed by a member of the recording apparatus;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the member of the recording apparatus,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 9,~~ wherein said biasing member is provided with a length and an elastic force such that said biasing member moves a claw portion of said retaining member to outside of said ~~recessed~~engaging portion when an engagement between said retaining member and said mounting portion is released.

13. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a pressed portion, opposing the retaining member through the ink chamber, and having a face adapted to be pressed by a member of the recording apparatus;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the member of the recording apparatus,

~~The ink cartridge according to Claim 9,~~ wherein a stress provided by said biasing member is set to a range of 200g through 700g when said cartridge is mounted~~:~~.

14. (Currently amended) The ink cartridge according to Claim ~~9~~11, wherein said valve device includes a sealing member for resiliently abutting a surrounding of said ink supply needle, and

a valve body brought into contact with said sealing member and said biasing member for pressing said valve body to said sealing member.

15. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber, storing ink;

an ink supply port, communicating with the ink chamber, and adapted to engage with an ink supply needle formed in a mounting portion of a recording apparatus, so that the ink is supplied to a recording head of the recording apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted in the mounting portion;

a retaining member, having a projected portion adapted to engage with an engaging portion formed in the mounting portion;

a pressed portion, opposing the retaining member through the ink chamber, and having a face adapted to be pressed by a member of the recording apparatus;

a valve device, having a biasing member provided in the ink supply port and configured to normally keep closed the valve device,

wherein, when the ink supply needle is inserted to the ink supply port, the valve device is opened against the biasing member so as to resiliently abut the projected portion to the member of the recording apparatus,

~~The ink cartridge according to claim 9,~~ wherein said biasing member is provided with an elastic force such that said ~~container body~~ink chamber is moved in a direction[[.]]

opposed to an insertion direction against a friction force between ~~said~~a sealing member and [[:]]said ink supply needle when said biasing member releases an engagement between said retaining member and said mounting portion.